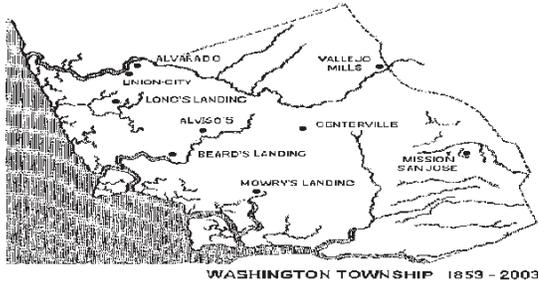


Washington Township Historical



JULY-AUG 2016

VOL 40

NO. 04

PRES: AL MINARD

(510) 552-4839

V.P.: JOHN WEED

(510) 651-2482

REC. SEC.: TIM SWENSON

(510) 489-8944

TREAS.: DON BARSÌ

(510) 342-8355

**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016, 7:15 PM at
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST. FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Tim Swenson and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are many interesting and worthwhile activities in the Bay Area to attend or become involved with, that it is often hard to choose which ones to attend. I hope that you will choose to attend the Washington Township Historical Society Meeting on July 25, 2016 starting at 7:15 PM at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont. Saturday, July 9th the Museum of Local History held their annual Volunteer Potluck honoring the Museum's volunteers. On that same Saturday, Don Edwards National Park was holding a van tour to Drawbridge. For 20 years, I have missed the opportunity to tour Drawbridge, so my wife and I took the van tour to Drawbridge. There is no longer access to this site, but we got as close

as we could get and looked through spotting scopes and long range cameras to see a town disappearing into the Bay.

Our speakers at our July 26th meeting are Tim Swenson and myself discussing the Goold House and the history of the Goold family who lived in Centerville. The Goold family promoted many of the educational benefits that we enjoy today. They lived in Centerville on what is now known as Peralta Boulevard. Their house was thought to be eligible for the California Register of Historic Buildings until... I think I will save the rest of the story for the meeting.

Al Minard

Our July Guest Speakers are Tim Swenson and Al Minard

Tim will be talking about the procedure to get the Goold House on the City's Historical Register. He will tell about the History of the Goold Family and how important they were to Fremont. Al will be talking about how a building gets on the historical register and how once it is on will sometimes get removed from the register. This is a current issue regarding a development in the Centerville area and means the demolition of several older homes, but only the Goold house was felt to be significant until the City did more research.

This should be an interesting discussion on the historical register.

"To Collect, Preserve and Diffuse Information Relating to the History of Washington Township"

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 3, 2016, The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood invites us to ride the Katie train at Ardenwood. Katie is a 48-year-old 5-ton gasoline powered locomotive. They invited you to enjoy Railroad Adventure Day on Saturday May 14, this is a wonderful activity for children but they do need adult supervision.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 10, 2016, Niles invites everyone to the Wildflower, Art, Garden and Quilt show on Sunday May 15. When you register for this event you would be given a map of the gardens and locations of the art. This is a fun event that is held every year on this weekend.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 10, 2016, Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum is presenting a documentary on the Fremont Dragstrip. At one time this was one of the top Dragstrips in the United States.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 17, 2016, Nelson Kirk reported that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints cleaned up William Cann Civic Center park by removing about 200 pounds of litter, spreading mulch and planting milkweed to attract butterflies.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 17, 2016, Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum brings two of the Niles made Chaplin movies to Old Mission San Jose to be joined by musical accompaniment by Bay Area composer Mark Fish's dynamic new score commissioned by Music at the Mission on May 21

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 17, 2016, **Lila Jean Bringhurst's** obituary tells about the rather sudden death of Lila and many of her accomplishments.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 17, 2016, **Kelsey Carmello** reports on walking tours of Historic Downtown Irvington led by Caroline Harris on Saturday, May 18. This was a free event and tells about many of the old buildings in Irvington and the history of this area.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 24, 2016, **Joyce Bluford** writes about a new Ice Age Fossil exhibit opening at the Children's Natural History Museum that indicate that these ice age animals were here when humans were known to be in the area some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 31, 2016, Coyote Hills Regional Park announces their 17th annual Butterfly and Bird festival at the park in Fremont Jan Southworth, a Naturalist at the Park read an article that in the 1940's and

50's there were 70 to 100 different species of butterflies found in the San Francisco Bay Area, now there are less than 12 different species found.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 7, 2016, The City of Fremont seeks volunteers to work as docents at the Patterson House in Ardenwood Park of Fremont. They will also take other volunteers like gardeners, or people to help out with events and much more.

TRI-CITY VOICE June 7, 2016, **Kelsey Carmello** writes that the Washington Township Museum of Local History is presenting an exhibit at the Central Park Visitors Center on the history of the area. This exhibit will run through September 5, 2016.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 7, 2016, The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose honor 16 women who are celebrating 25 years to 75 years of commitment as Dominican Sister. These Sisters were honored by planting a beautiful tree in honor of each one in the Motherhouse Meadow to shade and shelter generations of students, friends and family.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 7, 2016, Nelson Kirk reports on eight fine volunteers who have been picking up ground litter in the Alvarado District for one and a half years.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 14, 2016, William Marshak in his editorial about the long fight Kimber Park has had about the tennis and swimming venue in the Kimber Park development. The vote after a long discussion was that the space would be kept as Private Open Space with Bill Harrison and Sue Chan voting against and Vinnie Bacon, Lily Mei and Rick Jones voting for the Private Open Space designation.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 14, 2016, The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood Park invites everyone to come out and ride the train pulled by the 48-year-old Katie locomotive. The Katie locomotive was badly damaged and was just recently restored with a new original paint color and now looks as good as new.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 14, 2016, Shape Our Fremont an organization that monitors development in the Fremont area, reports that the land that Regan Nursery has been using has been sold to SiliconSage Builders for \$32 million, and the Regan Nursery lease has been extended only until December 2016.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 21, 2016, The Milpitas Historical Society will be conducting its annual community tour for all who are interested on Saturday, June 25. This year it will be a bus tour with everyone meeting at Great Mall.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 21, 2016, **David Kiehn**, historian at Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum reports on finding several films thought to have been lost in their own collection of film and still in good condition. He also reports that June 24th thru June 26th is the annual Broncho Billy Silent film festival in Niles at the Edison Theatre built in 1913.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 21, 2016, Shape our Fremont reports on the latest development projects: the Walnut Residences is scheduled to come before the Planning Commission on July 14 with a project that will put 53 dwelling units per acre at the corner of Walnut and Guardino. The other project, Centerville Junction on Peralta Boulevard was delayed because of the historical designation on the Goold house that we will be talking about at our July 25 meeting.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 21, 2016, Brian Kilgore reports on results of the National History Day Competition for all of California held on May 6-7, 2016 in Rocklin. Fremont had many projects advance to the National Competition in the areas of Historical Paper, Exhibits, Documentaries, Performances and Website. Congratulations to our Students.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 28, 2016, the greater Tri-City area is once again gearing up for Fourth of July Celebrations with parades and many other activities.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 28, 2016, Shape our Fremont states that community character is how a neighborhood, area or City looks and feels to the people who live there. It is not just about the height, density or architecture, it is also about the trees, streets, shops and open spaces and it is worth fighting for.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 5, 2016, The City of Fremont is encouraging everyone to participate in National Night Out. You can register your site with the City of Fremont and they will send the Police, City Council, Appointed Board Members and/or Fire Department members to each location so that you get to know your City's elected officials, appointed citizens and hired staff of the City.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 5, 2016, Niles Canyon Railway

invites you to take a ride on a Speeder through Niles Canyon on Saturday, July 9. Speeders were used by rail workers to check and repair problems along the tracks and on the tracks. This was a fund raiser for the Niles Canyon Railway to restore railroad rolling stock and maintain the rail system.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 5, 2016, The Niles Canyon Railway is having a Wine Tasting special train on Saturday, July 16 through September 10. They will be talking about the pivotal role the Livermore Valley played in shaping California's wine Industry.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 12, 2016, The Washington Township Museum of Local History has developed a field trip for fourth-grade classes to show how life was during the Rancho period of California. This will include a tour of the Higuera Adobe in the Warm Springs area.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 12, 2016, **Al Minard** reports that the Mission Peak Heritage Foundation is holding their annual Victorian Ice Cream, Social at the Shinn House, 1251 Peralta Boulevard Fremont on Sunday, July 17 from Noon to 4 PM. They invite everyone to attend and enjoy the Ice Cream and all of the other activities happening in the park that day.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 12, 2016, The Newark Chamber of Commerce selected the Tri-City Voice Newspaper for the Community Partner Award for 2016. Chamber of Commerce, CEO Valerie Boyle noted that the Tri-City Voice truly does tell the stories of the community and does so by reaching out, connecting, and partnering with as many individuals, organizations and businesses as they possibly can.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 12, 2016, Shape Our Fremont reports opposition to the Walnut residences which is currently scheduled to build 670 luxury residences on a 12 acre site at the corner of Walnut and Guardino. The opposition claims the development is: Too dense, Too tall, Too close to the street, and not what we need. This project was on the Thursday, July 14 Planning Committee agenda.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 12, 2016, The Piecemakers Quilt Guild reports on a quilt show at the New Dominican Center in Fremont on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday July 17 from 10 AM to 4 PM. There are many different sizes of quilts and the money raised from this will provide materials for quilts that they donate to service organization that support the needy.

Dear Members and Friends of Washington Township Historical Society,

We have a serious problem, our only fund raising is from Membership Dues and donations. Our dues come due in January each year and we only have a small handful of people who have paid this year's dues. Your dues pay for the bi-monthly printing and mailing of this newsletter, you can help by asking to be included in the email only receipt of the newsletter; we also pay about \$500 a year for Liability Insurance that the City of Fremont requires for the use of the Museum; we also pay guest speakers a small honorarium for speaking to our group. Postage and printing of the newsletter has gone up dramatically in the past few years, and our Insurance continues to increase every year, but our dues have remained the same. We only have three ways to survive as an organization and that is to get more members paying dues, and/or raise our dues from the current rate of \$10 per year to \$15 or \$20 per year, and/or dramatically reduce our costs for mailing

our newsletter. We need everyone to pay their dues in a timely manner, July is past being timely, and we need everyone who can access the internet and receives this newsletter in the mail to convert to email only.

In early 2015, Lila Bringhurst and others proposed joining the Museum of Local History, with Washington Township Historical Society and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. We ran into some problems along the way about implementation and voted to have a cooling off period before we looked at this proposal again. Lila passed away and that leaves us with a decision do we want to continue trying to merge the three organizations or continue as we are? There has been talk about merging the newsletters of all three organizations together and getting bulk rate mailing which cuts down on postage cost but does nothing for printing costs. Our last newsletter was mailed to about 75 addresses, if we mailed our newsletter to only our paid members this month we would be mailing out less than 50.

Our Treasurer, Donald Barsi will be at this month's meeting and he will give you a receipt for any dues he receives.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING

Dan Mosier

Linda Freitas

George & Diana Roeding

We thank them for paying their dues.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

MAIL CHECK TO: Washington Township Historical Society

PO BOX 3045

FREMONT, CA 94539

Washington Township Museum of Local History Annual Donor and Volunteer Luncheon





At one of our future meetings we plan to have a person from the Don Edwards National Seashore talk to us about Drawbridge. We will probably hold this meeting in a larger hall either the Fremont Library or ???

South Pacific Coast Railroad (SPCCR) 1880

In 1876, James “Slippery Jim” Fair and Alfred “Hog” Davis saw the potential of connecting the Bay Area to Santa Cruz via railroad. From Newark, the rail would travel into the waterways of the bay to Alviso, San Jose, and other intermediate stops on the way to Santa Cruz. This was an 80 mile railroad journey much of it over the waters of the south bay.

When the actual construction started, a problem presented itself in the form of two navigable waterways—Mud Creek Slough and Coyote Creek Slough. By law, the waterways were required to remain open for shipping. The SPCRR’s solution called for a drawbridge (actually a swing bridge) over each waterway operated by a bridge tender on Station Island.

